

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application and all claims are rejected.

Reconsideration of the rejections in view of the following remarks is requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Amended claim 7 no longer contains the term “16PF Model” and is therefore not indefinite.

II. US. Patent No. 5,945,988 to Williams

The Office rejected Claims 1, 5-11 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,945,988 to Williams (hereinafter “Williams”). The Office further rejected dependent claims 2-4, 12, 13-15, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) further in view of U.S. Patent 6,345,954 to Traversat, U.S. Patent 6,374,237 to Reese, and U.S. Patent No. 6,748,361 to Comerford.

The present invention relates to a system or method of adapting an electronic personal assistant being characterized by a plurality of personality parameters. The system assigns a personality profile to a subscriber by storing personality parameters for that personality profile which are used to select prompts to output to the user. The personality parameters can be adjusted based on the subscriber's behavior. In this way the system can interact with a subscriber, in a way that is quite different to merely storing data relating to a subscriber.

Williams relates to a system for determining and automatically updating user preferences in an entertainment system. Williams teaches storing various user preferences for different users, such as preferred volume settings for each channel, content blocking information or preferred program genres or Internet sites. When a particular user uses the system, the output of the entertainment system (volume, contrast, channel, etc.) is altered according to the user's preference.

However, none of the user preferences stored in Williams can be considered to be a "personality parameter", which is used to interact with the user in a similar way to the system of the present invention; the entertainment system cannot be considered to have "personality". None of the other prior art documents cited by the Examiner discloses the use of an electronic personal assistant in the manner described by the present invention. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claims 1, and 17 and all claims that depend therefrom directed to a personal assistant system are novel and inventive over the prior art.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the Williams reference, taken alone or in combination with the other references relied upon, fail to disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

It is believed that a fee for a one month extension is required and is included for the present amendment. In the event that any additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 03-2469. Moreover, if the deposit account contains insufficient funds, the Commissioner is hereby invited to contact Applicants' representative to arrange payment.

Respectfully submitted,



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